



## Marine Officer Professional Military Education Requirements

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Second Lieutenant

First Lieutenant

Captain

Major

Lieutenant Colonel

Colonel

General Officers

Warrant Officer (WO1)

Chief Warrant Officer (CWO2)

Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CWO3)

Chief Warrant Officer 4 (CWO4)

Chief Warrant Officer 5 (CWO5)

Limited Duty Officer (LDO) Captain

Limited Duty Officer (LDO) Major

The USMC Officer PME Program is codified in Marine Corps Order MCO P1553.4B, Professional Military Education.

**PME Requirements** are the *minimum* requirements that must be completed, as defined in the PME Order, prior to the convening date of a promotion board in order for a Marine, who is eligible for selection, to be considered fully qualified for selection.

**PME Complete Criteria** are those PME courses identified in the PME Order which, when completed, make a Marine more competitive for promotion.

**Joint PME Requirements** are based on educational requirements specified in the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction, Officer Professional Military Education Policy (OPMEP) CJCSI 1800.1D (15 July 2009) and mandated by the Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 (established by the Skelton Committee on Armed Services in 1989). Officer Joint PME consists of two phases; JPME Phase I is completed at Service Intermediate Level School (ILS) (resident or nonresident distance education program) or foreign ILS and JPME Phase II is obtained at a National Defense University or Service Top Level School (TLS) (resident only) or at Joint & Combined Warfighting School (JCWS) (10-week course). Joint PME Phase I and II combined are the education requirements that must be satisfied for a Marine Officer to become a JQO/JSO and therefore eligible for selection to general. (The 2005 National Defense Authorization Act requires that after 30 September 2008, only officers that have earned a JQO/JSO designation may be appointed to general officer).



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**Second Lieutenant (O-1)**  
**First Lieutenant (O-2)**  
**Warrant Officer (WO1)**  
**Chief Warrant Officer (CWO2)**

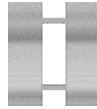


Marines in the grades of O-1, O-2, WO1, and CWO2 do not have formal PME responsibilities aside from the professional self-study outlined in the Marine Corps Professional Reading Program. Marines in these grades are expected to focus on developing into proficient practitioners within their occupational fields.

First Lieutenants and Chief Warrant Officers 2 are eligible to enroll in the career level PME Expeditionary Warfare School Distance Education Program (EWSDEP).



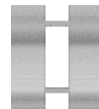
### **Captain (O-3)**



To be **PME Complete** for the grade of Captain, Marines must:

- (1) Attend and complete the Expeditionary Warfare School resident program, **OR**
- (2) Complete the Expeditionary Warfare School Distance Education Program (EWSDEP), **OR**
- (3) Attend and complete career level equivalent warfare specialty schools known as Army Captains Career Courses (ACCCs). Refer to MCO 1553.4B, page 1-6 for specific Army courses. A complete list of applicable ACCCs is also included in the annual Career Level School selection board convening MARADMIN.

### **LDO Captain Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CWO3)**



To be **PME Complete** for the grade of LDO Captain and Chief Warrant Officer 3, Marines must:

- (1) Complete the EWSDEP.
- (2) Certain ACCCs have opportunities for CWO3s; Marines should contact their monitors for details.



## Major (O-4)



To be **PME Complete** for the grade of Major, Marines must:

- (1) Attend and complete the Command and Staff College resident program, **OR**
- (2) Complete the Command and Staff College Distance Education Program (CSCDEP- MCI Program 8800), or the Army, Navy, or Air Force Command and Staff College distance education program **OR**
- (3) Complete the Command and Staff College Distance Education Program (CSCDEP), **OR**
- (4) Attend and complete the Army Command and General Staff College resident program or the Air Force Command and Staff College resident program or the Navy College of Naval Command and Staff resident program, **OR**
- (5) Attend and complete an approved foreign Intermediate Level School (approved lists are published annually in the ILS section board convening messages), **OR**
- (6) Attend and complete the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation's (WHINSEC) Command and General Staff Officer Course. (This equivalency is grandfathered to the class of AY 05-06).

Additionally, prior to 1 Aug 2006, the following programs met the PME Complete Criteria for Majors:

- (7) The Post-Graduate Intelligence Program (PGIP), **OR**
- (8) The Judge Advocate General School of the Army (TJAGSA) Graduate Course, **OR**
- (9) CMC Fellowships completion from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University or the Logistics Fellowship at Penn State University.



**LDO Major  
Chief Warrant Officer 4 (CWO4)**



To be **PME Complete** for the grade of LDO Major and Chief Warrant Officer 4, Marines must:

(1) Complete the Command and Staff College Distance Education Program (CSCDEP- MCI Program 8800), or the Army, Navy, or Air Force Command and Staff College distance education program **OR**

(2) Complete the Command and Staff College Distance Education Program (CSCDEP).



**Chief Warrant Officer 5 (CWO5)**



Marines in the grade CWO5 do not have formal PME responsibilities aside from professional self-study as per the Marine Corps Professional Reading Program.



## Lieutenant Colonel (O-5)



To be **PME Complete** for the grade of Lieutenant Colonel, Marines must:

(1) Attend and complete the Army, Navy, Air or Marine Corps War College resident program,

**OR**

(2) Attend and complete the National Defense University's War College (NWC), Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF), or Joint Advanced Warfighting School (JAWS), **OR**

(3) Attend and complete an approved foreign Top Level School (approved lists are published annually in the TLS section board convening messages), **OR**

(4) Attend and complete a CMC Fellowship (approved lists are published annually in the TLS section board convening messages), **OR**

(5) Complete the Army or Air War College distance education program.

\* Unlike the resident schools listed in (1) and (2) above, foreign TLS, CMC Fellowships, and non-resident distance education programs are not JPME II accredited. Completion fulfills PME requirements, but does not fulfill JPME II requirements.

\* Graduates of (3), (4), and (5) can receive their JPME II at the ten week Joint Combined Warfighting School (JCWS).



## **Colonel (O-6)**



Marines in the rank of colonel do not have formal PME responsibilities aside from professional self-study as per the Marine Corps Professional Reading Program. In addition to self study, the Senior Planners Course was developed in 2010 as an advanced professional military education course designed to fill the formal PME void/span between TLS and Senior Level Development Program formal PME. This three week course is intended to refresh and educate colonels in the operational art of planning, strategy and campaigning.



## General Officers



To be **PME Complete** for the grade of Brigadier General, Marines must:

- (1) Attend Brigadier General Select Orientation Course within one year of confirmation.
- (2) Attend General Officer Warfighting Program after BGSOC.
- (3) Attend CAPSTONE within two years of confirmation.
- (4) Should attend Enabling Battle Command Workshop serving in applicable commands.

To be **PME Complete** for the grade of Major General, Marines should:

- (1) All aviation general officers should take either JFACC or CFACC.
- (2) All supporting establishment general officers should attend the Strategic Thinking Course.
- (3) All supporting establishment general officers should attend Leading Innovation.
- (4) All operational commanders should attend JFOWC.

To be **PME Complete** for the grade of Lieutenant General and General, Marines should:

- (1) Attend Pinnacle.
- (2) Attend Leadership at the Peak.
- (3) Attend PME as directed by CMC.

All general officers must attend annual Strategic Leadership Seminar.